

Theaters (T.H.)

Mrs. Merrill:

I should have retyped this in a neater form before turning it over to you. Perhaps you will want to have someone on your staff do it before putting it in the files. If so, you may want to omit the last half of the final statement under No. 140.

I owe so much to you and the Fairbanks Library. Much of the material was obtained there. If it would be helpful to you personally, I would be glad to repeat it at a time of your choosing.

Little by little new items come to my attention, so I'll be stopping by now and then when I need your resources.

Wayne E. Miller

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HISTORY OF THEATER IN TERRE HAUTE

1. WABASH AVENUE*CORINTHIAN HALL: When did theater, concerts, or stage entertainment start in Terre Haute? Not in 1816 when our town began, ^{but soon after} By 1830 our population was estimated to be about 600, ~~but~~ thereafter it grew rapidly. Records in the next several years note such events as performances by the Sable Harmonious, the Acrobats of the Antonie Family and the Batemen children. How they traveled here (roads were very poor), what the performances were like--we have no record. By 1851 our population was about 8000 and that year saw the erection of our first public place of entertainment. It was Corinthian Hall which was on the third floor of the building on the left. The full building was a part of what we knew as Phoenix Row. Its location was on the northeast corner of Third and Wabash (where Wabash-Fort Harrison Savings & Loan is today). We are told a grand ball was held on its completion and entertainment was presented. The entire block was torn down less than ten years ago. The building on the right is still standing.
2. ST STEPHENS CHURCH: Though we termed Corinthian Hall as our first official public place of entertainment, there had been other events. Newspapers of the time tell of public programs being held at St. Stephens Church, built in 1845, on North 5th Street, between Wabash and Cherry. Obviously they would not have been actual plays, but the range was wide enough that they must have served to whet the appetite of citizens for more elaborate programs.
3. NATIONAL HOUSE: The lobby of the National House that stood at 6th and Wabash (where the Merchants Savings & Loan is today) was also used in a number of instances for entertainment gatherings. The Wabash Erie Canal had reached here in 1849, passenger trains a year later. Plank roads had been phased out, so people were on the move.
4. PENCE HALL: Newspapers for the next several years speak of gatherings in Concordia, Imberry and Beach's Halls. Also mentioned is Sam Dodson's Theater. But there is no other information available. As to the slide we are viewing, in 1858 Dr. Allen Pence erected this building at 2nd and Ohio Street (where the present public Service Company is now) and called it Pence's Hall. He had a drug store on the first floor, offices on the second and a public hall on the third. The community used it for a number of programs.
5. DOWNEY BUILDING: YOU WILL REMEMBER IT BETTER AS IT APPEARED SOME FOUR YEARS AGO just before it was torn down--long after it had lost all its dignity.
6. McKENN BANK and DOWLING HALL: We are not looking at this slide to see the McKenn Bank Building that stood at Sixth and Wabash where the present Rogers Jewellery Store is today, but to see the facade of Dowling Hall at the extreme right. The Chanticleer Building occupies the spot now. Local business man, Thomas Dowling, built his edifice and opened it in 12-15-64. It could seat up to 1400 people. The stage had a 24 foot depth and was equipped with trap doors and other theatrical equipment. Traveling companies--such as professional plays, minstrel shows, variety acts--made immediate use of it. But elaborate as it was, Dowling Hall could not accommodate the largest of the stage companies that were now traveling the theater circuit.

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Population then was about 14,000.

7. **NAYLOR OPERA HOUSE:** So the Terre Haute Opera House was built in 1869. It held It was located at 4th and Wabash Avenue where the present Schultz Store is today. It was a five story French Renaissance frame building covered with a stone shell, and it would hold up to 1800 people. Its graceful convex tower is reminiscent of many European buildings, so it is not surprising that the architect was from Belgium. Illumination was by 180 gas burners and reflectors around the walls and 65 burners and reflectors in the ceiling simulating a chandelier. An artist was imported to paint the canvas and backdrops. Orchestra seats were of red plush. Opening night is a story unto its self. A famous actor was engaged for the inaugural week, but his train was late and the audience waited until 11:00 p.m. for the curtain to go up. But the great financial panic of 1874 brought bankruptcy for the T. H. Opera Company. A Mr. Wilson Naylor took over, renamed it the Naylor Opera House and operated it until 1896 when it burned.

8. **EDWIN BOOTH PROGRAM:** During its 27 year history virtually every great name in the Theater played here in addition to Edwin Booth who came more than once. There was John Drew, Modjeska, Lilly Langtry, Chauncey Olcott, Pat Rooney, Fay Templeton, E. H. Sothern.

9. **LILLIAN RUSSELL:** The special charm of Miss Lillian Russell graced the Naylor stage as well as the Grand Opera House we'll see later.

10. **NAYLOR HORSES PROGRAM:** The variety of programming included grand opera, vaudeville acts, concerts, soloists, and, as you can see animal acts in the form of grained horses. The late Helen Condit who gave her family home to I. S. U. saved this advertisement from her girlhood days when her father brought her downtown to see the horses being brought into the building for a performance.

11. **HORSES PROGRAM:** For reasons not clear they had to be brought in the front entrance but to reach the auditorium one had to climb a flight of stairs. She saved this card when she attended the afternoon performance. But as we mentioned earlier the structure was to be destroyed by fire in 1896.

12. **GRAND THEATER:** The 1897 Terre Haute Gazette carried this picture telling citizens that this fine Renaissance building at North 7th and Cherry Street was their new Grand Opera House. It was built in 90 days, and was a fully wooden structure covered with brick. The city had some 36,000 population by then.

13. **GRAND THEATER:** This color post card shows the details to more advantage. During this period and up to about 1915, there were two major theater towns in the state. Indianapolis was one, and on the same level, according to historian Clifton J. Phillips, Terre Haute was the other, though much smaller in population. Road companies always stopped here. The house had its own permanent pit orchestra.

14. **GRAND THEATER STAGE:** The stage was flanked on two levels with plush box seats, and was equipped as completely as any theater of the time including trap doors and hand elevators. Above was a fly loft, and in the basement with its wooden floor were a dozen dressing rooms and two large ones for the chorus. Again, the story of opening night is too long to include. It is recorded that the leading man toasted the theater, the audience and his co-star by drinking champagne from her slipper--a celebrated custom that has always failed to impress me.

15. **GRAND THEATER SIDE VIEW:** The first and second balconies encircled the stage in the traditional horseshoe fashion.
16. **GRAND THEATER PROMENADE:** For use between acts there was a large promenade back of the orchestra section. Who were the artists who appeared here? May we take one minute to answer that question. There was Tyrone Power, Richard Mansfield, Otis Skinner, Dewolf Hopper, Julia Marlowe, Douglas Fairbanks, Ethel and John Barrymore (and, by the way, John's name was in small print indicating he had a bit part), our own James Whitcomb Riley, Fritz Kreisler, Paderewski, Sarah Bernhardt, Maxine Elliott, Wallace Berry, George M. Cohan, Mrs. Leslie Carter, Billy Burke, Mary Boland, David Warfield, Henry Miller, Laura Hope Crewes, Lon Charey, C. Aubrey Smith. And we could go on if we needed to. Let's check a few programs.
17. **MAUDE ADAMS:** Here is a legendary name in the arts.
18. **Jascha Heifetz:** Mr. Heifetz was making his first American debut when he came to town.
19. **SIR HARRY LAUDER:** Sir Harry Lauder must have been a joy to hear. But in addition to name stars there were operas: Faust, Rigoletto, Madame Butterfly, dancers such as the Imperial Russian Ballet, musical comedies such as Gilbert and Sullivan, and operettas such as Blossom Time, The Red Mill, The Merry Widow, and they were full productions.
20. **THE STROLLERS:** Here, for instance, is a scene from a musical called The Strollers. The year is 1906. Prices: .35¢ to \$1.50. There were 75 in the cast.
21. **FORTY-FIVE MINUTES FROM BROADWAY:** In 1914 Terre Hauteans enjoyed Forty-five Minutes from Broadway not long after New Yorkers had seen it. Remember the song MARY IS A GRAND OLD NAME? It is from this show. Unfortunately we don't have a color slide to illustrate how colorful the shows might have been, so let's try another way.
22. **ANNA HELD:** Most of the plays were mounted in New York. This slide has nothing to do with Terre Haute. It shows a scene from a Ziegfeld production that once played New York's Manhattan Theater. The play was called PAPA'S WIFE, and the star was Anna Held. It is reasonable to assume that the productions seen here in Terre Haute were as colorful as this one. We should mention that Miss Held did appear in Terre Haute but not in this particular vehicle.
23. **GRAND THEATER IN THE 1930's:** We'll continue with this building's story. After radio and talking pictures came in, stage features were gone. This picture taken in 1937 shows the Grand was now a movie house for first rate features. Back of the screen the stage that had once seen BEN HUR GIVEN IN A full production with live animals was now gathering dust.
24. **GRAND THEATER:** The 1959 marquee told its doom. The great old house was torn down and became a parking lot in 1960.
25. **GERMANIA HALL:** Back to our story around the turn of the century. There were other activities in our city other than dramas and vaudeville. There were concerts and musicals by local groups. As a sample, we'll look at only one. On South Ninth Street between Wabash and Ohio, the Germania Hall (seen here on the left on the second floor) was the scene of many song fests.

26. 27. EMPIRE THEATER: We are at Second and Ohio in this slide looing east. Look past the Courthouse to the two story building almost out of sight. Note the tall windows on the second floor. ^{Used} Built before the Civil War this structure is still with us. On the second floor was an auditorium for public use. In addition to its auditorium use, it was used for a time to house city offices, county offices.
27. 28. EMPIRE THEATER TODAY: This is that same building today. Notice the tall windows have been bricked over. This was done in 1899 when the ownership changed and Terre Haute had a new place of entertainment, the Empire Theater which could fairly well be called a burlesque house. It did not last long, for the 1907 Directory no longer carries the theater listing and shows it as vacant. Let's go inside.
28. 29. EMPIRE THEATER: We are standing in what would have been the stage area and are surveying the back of the house. There was a full balcony and it ~~next~~ extended over half way down the sides toward the stage. At the rear of the balcony there were bleacher seats and enough evidence remains today to prove the point. From the center ceiling there are indications that there might have been a chandelier or some type of lighting fixture.
29. 30. EMPIRE THEATER: We've climbed into the balcony and are standing on the south side. The stage was at the east end of the building. Note the graceful curve of the balcony railing and the descending levels for greater visibility. We can see the remains of the proscenium arch, but the stage floor was born away years ago when the F. H. Boys Club use the building for their activities. From the outside we could see that there was no fly loft, but we were told that from the stage floor there was a height of some 40 feet.
30. 31. Empire THEATE: There may have been several murals, but only one remains today in good enough condition to photograph. Above the balcony on the north side is a painting showing Columbus arriving in the New World. A Terre Haute newspaper article in the 1950's tells of someone finding a student's notebook in the theater, presumably left there by accidnt when he attended a performance. The notebook lists the names of Holly Honey Dew and Dawn Delight.
- our city has a number of links with the theater in the form of its citizens
31. 32. ALICE FISHER HARCOURT: Born and reared here in Terre Haute. Alice Fisher Harcourt made a great name for herself in the New York theater around the turn of the century.
32. 33. PAUL DRESSER: Still another name we must not omit. Paul Dresser, song and dance man actor, playwright, song publisher and composer, was born in Terre Haute in 1859. He would live until 1906.
33. 34. DRESSER SONG: He started his career in a travelig medicine show (Haglin's Wizard Oil). He bacame quite popular as a performer though neither his songing voice nor acting ability were notable. Nevertheless, he appeared widely across the country on a vaudeville circuit, but he gained his greatest fame as a composer of such sentimental songs as My Gal Sal and others such as this song title.
34. 35. ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH: By far his most famous was this touching and wistfully nostalgic song that swept the country in popularity.

- 35.36. COLISEUM PROGRAM: The Coliseum Theater once stood on the southeast corner of North 8th and Cherry Streets. We find no pictures of it and, other than a few faded programs no other information is available. It was in operation from about 1905 to 1908 when it burned. It must have been of some importance, for on at least one occasion Minnie Mattern Fiske played there. Let's turn the page of the program.
36. 36. COLISEUM PROGRAM: It is difficult to read, but can you see the fifth name in the cast. The ~~great~~ late great English actor, George Arliss, must have been in his younger years when he came to town. He would go onto Hollywood in the 1930's and make himself even more famous in the films.
37. 38. CASINO ADVERTISEMENT: The June 19, 1903 Terre Haute Gazette tells us that at the Casino, which was at the fairgrounds, the opera Martha was being presented. With such an ambitious offering, it is puzzling that little other information comes down to us about the casino.
38. 39. LAKE VIEW PARK: Some items out of the past are difficult to classify as major or minor. Lake View Park may have been a minor one. The park was located close to the southeast corner of Wabash Avenue and Brown. The 1906 directory is the first time we find it mentioned. The white building with the twin towers was a theater-dance hall, while almost indistinguishable on the right is the bandshell in the distance. The name Lake View indicates there was a body of water, and indeed there was, but a very small one. But I suppose it would not have been fitting to call it pond view park.
39. 40. LAKE VIEW ADVERTISEMENT: Obviously in 1906 business was thriving with 12 bands and six vaudeville acts.
40. 41. AIR DOME THEATER: 1907 is the first time we find mention of the Air Dome Theater at Third and Ohio where the Walker Electric Company now has their offices. It was, of course a summer time operation. There were films and vaudeville acts.

1907 is also the first time to find listed the Theatorium-Wabash Amusement Co., 100 North 4th Street. The name continues through 1913. We cannot identify it further

One year later or in 1908 we find the Harrington Air Dome on the Southeast corner of North 5th and Cherry Street. Four years later it becomes the Lois Airdome. Three more years and it is the Lois Theater. Though we ~~are~~ have no pictures, we are on surer ground here, for a personal friend has told me about attending a performance there. The Theater offered sporting events as well as films. He remembered that even when a roof was put on it (that is, from an air dome to a theater) it still had a dirt floor. A puzzling footnote is the fact that the 1910 Directory lists an Albert Theater at 31 N. 5th which would have been the same address as the Lois Theater.

41. 42. LYRIC THEATER: Will you note this slide closely. Notice the three tiny dormer windows on the third floor level. You recognize it, of course, as the store front just west of the former Fort Harrison Savings & Loan building on Wabash Avenue between 7th and 8th Street
42. 44. LYRIC THEATER: Now at that same location we step back to 1906 to resume our chronological order. That year saw the opening of the Lyric Theater, 720-722 Wabash Avenue. With the city population increasing to 55,000 evidently there was need for more places of entertainment. The Lyric was a vaudeville house with motion pictures as well. But the films were secondary to the stage in its beginning. Evidently it had about 600 seats.
43. 44. LYRIC PROGRAM:

43. 44. LYRIC PROGRAM: We checked a year's supply of programs, and we assume the acts appearing here were not the most famous names on the circuit, for they are not as familiar as some names we'll see shortly. The motion picture portion was listed as Kinodrome. No actual subject titles were given
44. 45. LYRIC PRICES: Compared to today's prices, the admission cost seems to have been reasonable. However, in light of the fact that live-in maids earned an average of \$2.75 per week in that period, and as late as 1912 the average family man's wages in Indiana was \$800. to \$900. per year, the price is explained.
45. 46. ORPHEUM THEATER: Just when the Lyric became the Orpheum Theater we can't say. At least three acquaintances have told us that a murder took place in the Lyric. It was closed for a while because people refused to go there. Evidently about 1920 the street facade was made more elaborate and the name change ~~was~~ took place. There are indications that it became a place for films only.
- Here are further points defying explanation. The Lyric stood at 720-722 Wabash Avenue. The 1907 Directory lists a Nickeldon Theater at 721 Wabash Avenue, which would be across the street. That listing stops with the 1911 Directory.
- And do you recall the Theatorium-Wabash Amusement Company at 100 North 4th Street? The 1910 Directory lists the Herman Theater at that address. It is shown no other time.
- One final mystery, the 1912-1913 Directory lists a Cosy Theater at 29 North 4th Street which would have been very close to the Lois Theater. We can't explain it.
46. 47. SECOND ORPHEUM THEATER: We can call this the second Orpheum Theater. Same location as the first. The street facade was totally changed. Remember the three small dormer windows we were going to remember. Here they are in the original. Television put the Orpheum out of business in 1952.
47. 48. VARIETIES THEATER: Across the street from the Orpheum or on the southeast corner of 8th and Wabash (where the present Grand Theater is located) in 1908 appears the Varieties Theater as an important vaudeville house. The street number of today's theater is 729 Wabash Avenue. Here is our final puzzle of the evening. The 1910 Directory lists the Elk Theater at 727 Wabash Avenue. It is mentioned no other time. Now--back to the Varieties, we are fortunate in having many programs available to us.
48. 49. VARIETIES THEATER: From the elaborate programming we can assume there was a fly loft and other equipment for full stage presentations, and we can assume the capacity was larger, for the names are better known.
49. 50. VARIETIES PROGRAM: This January 29, 1912, program proves there was obviously a permanent pit orchestra and that admission prices were scaled to the times.
50. 51. VARIETIES-WILL ROGERS: Some of the performers need little identification. Mr. Rogers played at the Grand and at the Varieties too.
51. 52. VARIETIES*VICTOR MOORE: victor moore came in the same year in what must have been a reasonably elaborate vehicle. This is the Victor Moore who in the 1930's made one of his greatest successes in George Gershwin's Of Thee I Sing.

52. ~~53.~~ VARIETIES-CLASSICS: Still in the same year was a program of the classics. It is fair to assume the artists were competent, for the theater circuit that provided the acts was a large one. Notice on the bottom of each program the word Kinodrome--a hint as to the coming popularity of the motion picture.
53. ~~54.~~ LIBERTY THEATER: The date of this building was 1918. It was the splendid new Liberty Theater built on the same location as the Varieties. If it looks somewhat familiar to you, it should, for when our Grand Opera House was torn down in 1960, its marquee was moved to the Liberty and the name changed.
54. ~~55.~~ LIBERTY THEATER: Despite the popularity of moving pictures, it was built for something more. This side view shows the fly loft still in place today.
55. ~~56.~~ LIBERTY ADVERTISEMENT: In its beginning days there would be three vaudeville acts plus a film. This advertisement is taken from the 10-29-23 Terre Haute Post. ~~The~~ The stage portion ceased in the late 1920's, and since then it has played only films.
- HIPPODROME+
56. ~~57.~~ IRIS THEATER: The 1915-1916 Directory lists the Iris Theater at 1626 Wabash Avenue. This church building is at 1624 Wabash. Post offices sometimes do a renumbering for us, so we must not state that the theater was at this location, but it was nearby and was in operation for about two years. This from a personal acquaintance who remembered the building.
57. ~~58.~~ HIPPODROME: This one we are sure of our information. The year was 1915 and Terre Hauteans were thrilled with the brand new Hippodrome Theater at 8th and Ohio Streets. It was strictly a vaudeville and stage house that would seat 1500 people, and the acts appearing here would come from the State Lake, and Palace and Majestic Theaters in Chicago.
58. ~~59.~~ HIPPODROME: This side view taken recently shows by its size that it could accommodate elaborate productions. The fly loft could hold many changes of scenery.
59. ~~60.~~ HIPPODROME: Before we go inside, we'll tell the full building's story. Talking pictures and the depression closed the house in the late 1920's. It was dark until 1949 when it reopened as the Wabash Theater for films only. But an occasional traveling company would appear for a night or two, and within personal memory come the thoughts of seeing Constance Bennett in Noel Coward's Easy Virtue, You Can't Take It With You and Oklahoma. Ethel Barrymore and Cornelia Otis Skinner also appeared during this period. And we must not forget that Tobacco Road came twice.
60. ~~61.~~ WABASH THEATER: The Wabash Theater was a most handsome house, but because of television it would last only six years. It was closed and sold to a fraternal organization.
61. ~~62.~~ SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL: This is its appearance today. Because of the excellent care given to it by its present owners, it is a pleasure to go inside.
62. ~~63.~~ SCOTTISH RITE FOYER: Here is the inner foyer. The banners are a part of the decorations of the Scottish Rite Cathedral, but imagine, if you can, how it would look as a theater. The staircases at either end are well designed. The ceiling is curved and designed in a paneled style. The borders are gilded. All in all, it is a handsome hint as to what is inside.

63. ~~64.~~ HIPPODROME CANVAS CURTAIN: The canvas fire curtain was famous over the theater circuit, we are told, for it depicts the Chariot Scene from Ben Hur. It is in surprisingly good condition. Camera bugs will guess that the distortion in the proscenium arch is caused by the angle of the shot. We were in the balcony when this was taken.
64. ~~65.~~ HIPPODROME: Except that the small orchestra pit has been covered to allow space for the ritual work of the lodge, the theater is almost intact. The stage could be used by a professional company with no changes. In fact, the lodge does present occasional dramas to their members.
65. ~~66.~~ HIPPODROME AD: But we said it was primarily a vaudeville and stage house, so we'll prove it. This ad was taken from the T. H. Post in 1923.
66. ~~67.~~ HIPPODROME AD: And someone has thoughtfully penned the date on this program showing that when No, No, Nanette first came out, a full company played in Terre Haute.
67. ~~68.~~ CENTRAL HOTEL: The old Central Hotel or Croxton Hotel as it was first known stood on the north side of Ohio Street between 7th and 8th. It was a favorite for vaudeville performers appearing in our city. It was torn down about ten years ago.
68. ~~69.~~ AMERICAN THEATER-EARLY WHEELS: We are not going to visit the Early Wheels Museum but we use it to illustrate a location. Before the Museum was established, there was a theater here.
69. ~~70.~~ AMERICAN THEATER: And that Theater was called the American. It was built in 1918 and was, I believe the first elaborate theater built primarily for movies. Do I dare give you one more puzzle? The 1918 yellow pages of the directory lists the American Theater. The white pages lists a Gem Theater at the same address. A guess would be that the Gem was a make shift store front theater that was torn down to be replaced by the American. The new theater had a pipe organ and a nine piece orchestra. There were musical presentations as a part of the program. The lobby had much polished brass and mirrors. The balcony railing that extended for some distance down each side of the auditorium was also brass.
70. ~~71.~~ AMERICAN PROGRAM: Here is one of the programs. The year is not given would probably be 1926 or 1927
71. ~~72.~~ AMERICAN PROGRAM: Opening the program we note the musical fare and the film presentation with three well-known names out of the past. The American, like all other movie houses turned to talking pictures when they came in and dispensed with the orchestra. The house ran until 1952 when new owners bought it, renamed it the State Theater. But television took its toll and by 1955 it was no more.
72. ~~73.~~ SAVOY THEATER: In relation to motion pictures 1918 was a banner year. As we saw, the American was a first rate house. Before the year would end, there would be seven more theaters in the city but less pretentious. Here is the Savoy, 332 Wabash Avenue.
73. ~~74.~~ SAVOY LOCATION: If you are having trouble locating it, an auto parts store occupies the location today. That was a photographer's studio on the third floor where you see the slanting window.

74. SAVOY ADVERTISEMENT: Many Terre Hauteans remember the Savoy as a very shabby home of Western pictures only. It was in later years, but in 1923 this advertisement proves it was something more. It closed its doors in 1950.

75. FOUNTAIN THEATER LOCATION: The center business location in this slide was once a movie house. The address is 423 Wabash Avenue. Notice the windows have been bricked over.

76. FOUNTAIN THEATER: It was the Fountain Theater. Despite the elaborate front, it was essentially a store room made into a motion picture house as inexpensively as possible. Here the second floor windows have not yet been closed. The Fountain closed its doors in 1953.

77. WALTERS BAKERY-CRESCENT THEATER: Here is another location we are showing you to illustrate a location. The bakery you see here was once the Federal Bakery. But before that it was something else.

78. CRESCENT THEATER: It was the Crescent Theater, 681 Wabash Avenue. It ceased operation in 1927.

79. CRESCENT THEATER: This second picture, poor as it is, shows most of the name and that the street frontage was of limited size with a small shop on both the right and left.

80. CRESCENT THEATER ADVERTISEMENT: This advertisement of 1923 shows that Charlie Chaplin was popular in our city.

81. OSCO DRUG STORE LOCATION: The present Osco Drug Store was not always here. The left most portion of the present store was once something else.

82. PRINCESS THEATER: It was the Princess Theater. It lasted until 1931. The 1917 Directory lists the Billikin Theater as being at 669 Wabash, which was the address of the Princess. We cannot explain the two different names. Perhaps a Mr. Billikin started the first one and for business reasons--with perhaps a new owner--the name could have been changed. During this period of time practically every city had a theater by this name.

83. PRINCESS ADVERTISEMENT: We have no date on this newspaper advertisement except that it was from a group of newspapers in the 1920's.

84. REX THEATER*SAPO BAKERY: You have passed this business building on North Sixth Street where it meets Lafayette Avenue. In 1915 it had another use.

85. REX THEATER: That was the year the Rex Theater was built. The picture tells a full story. Note the utilitarian plainness of the building, the ever-present popcorn machine, the attire of the audience and the sign boards. What would have been playing at the time?

86. REX THEATER CLOSEUP: Let's step up closer to see that Thomas Meighan and Lila Lee were starring in a film. Television closed the house in 1950.

87. VALESKA SURRAT: We can't list all the famous names in show business who came from Terre Haute, but we'll look at one more. Valeska Surrat was born about 1884 in Southern Indiana, moved here as a young girl, made a great name for herself on the stage and in silent films. Her latter years were not so productive. She died in 1962 and is buried in Highland Lawn.

88. MAJESTIC THEATER LOCATION: 1920 gives us another new movie house, the Majestic at 1664 Locust Street. You can make out part of the name at the top, for the paint remover did not quite obscure it.

89. MAJESTIC ADVERTISEMENT: It closed its doors in about 1929. Checking the structure today, one can assume that this was one building that was built specifically for theater purposes and it was not a converted store room.

90. SWAN THEATER: 1920 gave us the Swan Theater in Twelve Points at 1218 Lafayette. We could not find a picture, but this is the location. While we are in Twelve Points we should mention the Royal Theater which had a name change to the Victory Theater. But we won't risk showing you a location, for the post office has changed house numbers more than once in this area. The Garfield Theater was also in this area, but we'll see it in a moment in a different group.
91. INDIANA THEATER: Relative to show business 1921-22 was a milestone year in our city, for the beautiful Spanish Revival or Spanish baroque structure that is our Indiana Theater was built then. Easily the most handsome theater in our city it is still with us.
92. Indiana Theater: Its terra cotta decorations are so elaborate they defy description.
93. INDIANA THEATER: Before we go inside, note the fly loft showing by its size that its stage was designed to be used by large companies. Now, we'll go inside.
94. INDIANA THEATER: The rotunda with its circular railing and mirrors still retains its beauty. Look straight up
95. INDIANA THEATER ROTUNDA CEILING: The rotunda ceiling would not be out of place in a Spanish Palace
96. INDIANA THEATER GRAND PROMENADE: We don't have a good picture of the inner foyer or Grand Promenade as the architect called it, so we'll look at his sketch.
97. INDIANA THEATER STAIRCASE: The stairs going up to the balcony pause at a landing for the water fountain.
98. INDIANA THEATER PROMENADE CEILING: The coffered ceiling is gently arched and dotted here and there with crystal chandeliers.
99. INDIANA THEATER: Around the perimeter of the Promenade graceful caryatids would have you believe they are holding up the ceiling. Now we'll move into the theater itself.
100. INDIANA THEATER CEILING IN THE AUDITORIUM: The ceiling in the actual theater is patterned after a Moorish blanket design. The bits of color give it a jewel like appearance.
101. INDIANA THEATER: This full view shows the magnificent proscenium. The organ pipes were once housed back of the wall treatment on either side the stage. Regrettably the organ was sold a few years ago. The room seats 2000 people.
102. INDIANA THEATER ORCHESTRA PIT: Here is the orchestra pit. The organ console once stood at this end. The center has been floored over, and the two doors that once led under the stage have been closed. The baby grand piano is still in place at the far end. A number of famous acts once played on this stage, but we'll illustrate with only one.
103. Indiana Theater ADVERTISEMENT: The 1923 T. H. Post advertises the fact that Edna Wallace Hopper is coming to town.

104. ~~104.~~ EDNA WALLACE HOPPER NEWSPAPER: And on October 17 of that year there is a front page story and a picture telling of the perennial youth of the 62 year old actress. Let's take a closer look at that picture.
105. ~~105.~~ EDNA WALLACE HOPPER: If we can believe our eyes, she seems well preserved in this obviously posed photo. But there is more to the story.
106. ~~106.~~ NEWSPAPER AD: If those of you in the back of the room can't read it, it tells that Miss Hopper will offer a special morning matinee for ladies only. She strips and illustrates to the audience her method of cleansing and caring for herself, and from age 62 she promises to emerge looking 19.
107. ~~107.~~ CLARA BOW: Movies then were truly a part of our lives. The Terre Haute Sunday Tribune regularly ran at least one picture in its roto section. Here is one from 4-28-29 showing Miss Clara Bow in her new tennis outfit. It is a charming picture and the caption states that she is verrrrrry verrrrry charming. But in the way of press agents, whether or not Miss Bow ever hit a tennis ball in her life--we cannot be sure.
108. ~~108.~~ LIT LE VIRGINIA: Chronologically it was difficult to decide where to place this slide. The building on the left is the front of the Little Virginia Theater at 1472 Locust Street. It ~~was~~ ^{was} operated under this name from 1932 to about 1953. But ~~before 1932~~ ^{before} or in 1927 it was the Alhambra, and before that it was the New Park Theater. The Paitson Grocery and Bakery is still operating today in the same location.
109. ~~109.~~ LYCEUM THEATER: The Lyceum Theater ^{was} near 13th and Wabash on the South Side. Our picture is poor, but perhaps you can identify the sign. It was in operation from the 1920's to the early 1950's. The building is still with us.
110. ~~110.~~ ADULT BOOK STORE: It is now used for other purposes. I am told that films of a kind can still be seen there, but you need not say you heard it here, if you decide to go.
111. ~~111.~~ CLUB IDAHO: The first new movie house to be built after the depression years was the Idaho Theater near South 7th and Hulman Street. It operated until 1958 when televisio took over. Today it is a private club and this is how you are now viewing it.
112. ~~112.~~ THEATER ADVERTISEMENTS: I said a moment ago that movies had become a part of our lives. Here is the theater advertisement from the Sunday Terre Haute Tribune back in May 27, 1945. There was quite a choice, but the stage presentations of former years have long gone.
113. ~~113.~~ COMMUNITY THEATER: We look at this building for two purposes. Shortly after the Idaho Theater ^{appeared} ~~opened~~, the Best Theater opened at 25th and Washington. It lasted only until the 1950's. Movie attendance declined so much that the Community Theater purchased the building and remodeled it extensively and continue to use it today. And so we come to the present day in our story, as we see what theater is like today in our city.
114. ~~114.~~ COMMUNITY THEATER PRESENTATION: Our Community theater now more than 50 years old, has offered dramas and musicals usually ~~as~~ ^{as} a well tried and proven variety. But they occasionally step into the unusual as, for instance, when they presented Brecht's Good Woman of Setsuan a few years ago.

115. ~~114.~~ STATE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING: A year from now this building may not be appropriate to show except in an historical sense. We're looking at the State High Building at North 7th and Chestnut Street. It houses the Sycamore Theater.
116. ~~115.~~ STATE HIGH THEATER FLY LOFT: A few people have told me they were unaware that there was an auditorium. But indeed there is and here is the fly loft on the north end.
117. ~~116.~~ STATE HIGH HOOSIER SCHOOLMASTER: The building and theater officially opened in November 3, 1937 with the inaugural production of Eggleston's Hoosier Schoolmaster adapted for the theater.
118. ~~117.~~ HOOSIER SCHOOLMASTER CAST: Here is a part of the cast, and there are some familiar names. Its stage was to see a number of events in the next several years.
119. ~~118.~~ SYCAMORE THEATER'S TRIAL BY JURY: The Terre Haute Symphony has played here. Community Theater has used it, and a few traveling companies have presented dramas. I. S. U.'s School of Music has presented many programs. Here is a slide showing their production of Gilbert and Sullivan's Trial By Jury. But at this very time the fate of the building cannot be known since the High School is closing its doors very soon.
120. ~~119.~~ I. S. U. TIREY MEMORIAL UNION AND TILSON MUSIC ALL FLY LOFT: You know, of course, that this slide is out of date, for many additions have been made to the Tirey Memorial Union, but we're viewing it to illustrate the profile of the Tilson Music Hall and its fly loft. The Hall has been of great importance to Theater lovers since it was built in the late 1930's. Very rapidly we'll check off a few things we've seen here over recent years.
121. ~~120.~~ JOHN RAITT IN CAMELOT: Most annoying feature of the auditorium is that there is no orchestra pit and no way to have one, but nevertheless Mr. John Raitt in Camelot was enjoyable.
recent appearance
122. ~~121.~~ WILLIAM WARFIELD: William Warfield appeared with the Terre Haute Symphony, and in case you weren't there he did sing Ole Man River.
123. ~~122.~~ BRAMWELL FLETCHER: The great English actor, Bramwell Fletcher gave a one man show of readings from George Bernard Shaw, and as you can see, he costumed himself for the part.
124. ~~123.~~ EDWARD VILLELLA: The audience was very attentive the evening that Edward Villella and Melissa Hayden performed in classic ballet
125. ~~124.~~ EMLYN WILLIAMS: Emlyn Williams, another noted actor from the British Isles gave us a one man show of readings from the works of Charles Dickens.
126. ~~125.~~ DREISER HALL: Dreiser Hall on North 6th Street houses the Sycamore Playhouse. You can't see the fly loft for it is contained within the center of the building. The Sycamore Players have added immeasurably to the dramatic scene in our town.
127. ~~126.~~ SYCAMORE PLAYERS: They have performed musicals, modern comedies, greek tragedies and many of the classics such as Goldsmith's She Stoops to Conquer which is the slide we are viewing now.

128. ~~127.~~ CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC: Though we are holding this list to our city, we will leave it momentarily for two items too important to omit. Here we are at the Conservatory of Music Building on the St. Marys Campus. The structure houses the St. Cecelian Auditorium
129. ~~128.~~ ONCE UPON A MATTRESS: Their drama department offers a great variety. A few years ago they presented the modern Musical Once Upon a Mattress.
130. ~~129.~~ ROSE-HULMAN: East of town we have the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. Their Drama department is comparatively new
131. ~~130.~~ ROSE - HULMAN: Not long ago they presented Tea and Sympathy. With a limited space they make the best use of it. We are coming to the end of our tour now and we are listing the places one can go to if he is interested in the theater and movies.
still
132. ~~131.~~ GRAND THEATER: The Grand Theater at 8th and Wabash is still with us though it is dark at times. The stage could not be used any more, for it is filled with speakers installed in a permanent fashion.
133. ~~132.~~ PLAZA THEATER: At the north edge of town we have the comparatively new Plaze North Theater, for films only.
134. ~~133.~~ MEADOWS THEATER: While at Meadows Center the Meadows Theater also has only movies and no facilities for anything else.
135. ~~134.~~ CINEMAS I and II: At Honey Creek Square we have the city's only two back to back theaters sharing a lobby and ticket office.
136. ~~135.~~ VILLAGE CINEMA: I am sure I would be reminded of an omission if I failed to show you this. You will remember I mentioned some time ago that we'd see the Garfield Theater in Twelve Points. Only the name was changed when the present owners took over.
137. ~~136.~~ HUDMAN CENTER: But we are pleased to show you this building, the former Deming Hotel and Hulman Center which is now up for sale. For the past 12 years its ballroom has been the locale for the A. S. U. Summer Theater, one of the brightest things to come to our town in many a year.
138. ~~137.~~ RIVERWIND: Nearly all productions are performed in the round as was the musical Riverwind not long ago.
139. ~~138.~~ AMPITHEATER: The newest structure that has a connection to the arts is the new Ampitheater. Built primarily for sporting events, certain musical programs of a large nature can be adapted to it very well.
140. ~~139.~~ BALLET WEST: As for instance the Ballet West Group from Utah a couple of years ago. The large and attentive audience proved that there is still a reasonably large group of people in our city to whom the electricity of a live performance offers something that cannot be duplicated quite as well in a television tube.
- It is an interesting contrast when we consider events out of the past and compare them with matters of today. You will remember I mentioned that Edwin Booth the famous Sake Shakespearian actor came to Town more than once. It is said that when he appeared here in Hamlet, a special train came from the Rockville and Crawfordsville area bring people who wanted to attend the performance. The next performance at the Ampitheater is called Bread. Others, such as Chicago and Kiss have been to town recently. This is no criticism of any of the latter. I merely point out that there is indeed a contrast.